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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 001527

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DEPARTMENT FOR ISN/RA (RNEPHEW) AND WHA/AND

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/31/2017
TAGS: KNNP PARM PREL IR VZ
SUBJECT: UNSC SANCTIONS ON IRAN: VENEZUELA RECALCITRANT

REF: STATE 101574

Classified By: ACTING POLITICAL COUNSELOR DANIEL LAWTON,
REASONS 1.4 (B) AND (D)

¶1. (C) Charge raised reftel points July 30 with Jorge Valero,
Vice Minister of North American and Multilateral Affairs at
the Ministry of Popular Power for Foreign Affairs. Charge
reminded Valero of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's
(BRV's) obligations with respect to Iran-related UNSCRs and
urged the BRV to fulfill its responsibilities, including
submitting implementation reports to the UNSC Iran Sanctions
Committee.

¶2. (C) Valero responded that UN sanctions on Iran are a
"complex" issue. The BRV accepts Iran's assurances that its
nuclear program is peaceful. Valero noted that Venezuela and
Iran enjoy close ties "with the active participation of their
respective presidents." The BRV is concerned that the
declared nuclear powers have not accepted "total nuclear
disarmament." The Vice Minister concluded that it would be
difficult for the BRV to participate in the "international
isolation" of Iran.

¶3. (C) Charge replied that there is international consensus
that Iran's enrichment, reprocessing, and heavy water-related
activities exceed the needs of a nuclear energy program and
that is why the UNSC has directed Iran to suspend these
activities. Moreover, the USG's diplomatic strategy
coincides with that of the international community, which was
not aimed at isolating Iran, but at preventing Iran from
developing nuclear weapons. Charge stressed the importance
of the BRV adhering to UNSC decisions, regardless of whether
the BRV agrees with them.

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